

WORKSHEET ON POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION – GOVERNANCE

Definition: A system of governance must be created to provide security and make fair political decisions.

1. What problems in governance did Afghanistan face immediately after the 2001 overthrow of the Taliban government? What political divisions exist?
2. What are the major population groups in Afghanistan, and what are their determining characteristics (language, religion, etc.)? Which groups (if any) were in conflict with each other, and which ones work together? How would you ensure that all groups are treated fairly in establishing a government?
3. How has the international community or any individual countries affected the creation of a new government? Has the intervention been positive or negative? What do you think should be done to ensure that the new government is free and not controlled by a foreign country?
4. What kind of new government has been created (or is in the process of being created)? (Consider such issues as the constitution, elections, leadership structure, and who holds power.)
5. How is the issue of governance related to security, the development of the infrastructure, the economy, etc.? Why is the issue of women's political participation important?
6. If you could suggest **THREE** changes or courses of action, what would you do and how would you do it? What kind of support (financial, organizational) would you need to be successful?

Some websites that may help you:

- Long document (It has headings, so scroll down to relevant parts.):

<http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA490415&Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf>

- interesting and readable article from a left-wing American perspective:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/05/afghan_governance.html

- Al-Jazeera/English article:

<http://english.aljazeera.net/focus/2010/05/2010513105357535985.html>

- successes in improving governance: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/14/us-usa-afghanistan-idUSTRE70D07620110114>